



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande SEPTEMBER 2021

## From Your Pastor

Blessings and Greetings---

Here we are, September 2021! It's hard to believe. We've been back in-person, inside the sanctuary, for three months running. That's a blessing. We continue to keep some distance between us, wear masks, check in, limit touch, and take precautions in responsible ways. With the air purifiers running, we are doing our best to welcome everyone in and "do no harm" in good Wesleyan style. We take our cues from our founder, John Wesley, and we strive not only to "Do no harm", but to "Do good", and to "Stay in love with God" as well.

There hasn't been a good time to take time off since March of 2020, so my vacation has been accumulating. Ordained Elders have four weeks a year, plus two weeks of continuing education time annually (which most of us find almost impossible to keep up with). Since no time has seemed like a good time in 2020 or 2021, I'm simply going to sandwich in some getaway time from work between now and the holidays, so I'll be off one week from Wednesday-Wednesday, September 1-8<sup>th</sup> as we kick off September and I will be taking two weeks in October before Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

This is the year of my 50<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion. It remains to be seen if it actually happens in 2021 under the circumstances, or if I will feel comfortable in a crowd. My senior high class had 981 students in it. Though only a handful come (I attended the 20<sup>th</sup>), I have been diligently avoiding all group activities outside our church circle in order to help protect all seniors in our midst. I am, however, looking forward to a little time off. Blessings and Peace as we move ahead.

With affection,

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hey, Folks,

I have good news and bad news. First, the trustees, after much research, have found the kitchen combo that we want, specifically a range and a griddle with a total of three ovens. Second, it may take up to ten weeks to get them. We are looking at a cost of around \$11,000 total installed. So if any one is interested in giving a donation, of which we already have one, we will humbly receive it.

Also, please say a prayer for one of our volunteers for the Work Wednesdays, that being Bernie Hawkins who just had major back surgery.

Thank you for all of your support.

*Dave Bolterman,  
President, Board of Trustees*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Due to the resurgence of COVID,  
Church Council has decided to delay  
restarting Fellowship Time  
(a.k.a. Coffee Hour)  
refreshments.**

## NAME BADGES

**If you'd like to have a church name badge,  
or if you have misplaced yours, please fill  
out the form next to the badge carousel  
in the Narthex.**

**One will appear on the carousel for you!**

*Joel Anderson  
Chair, Church Council*



**WORSHIP  
LITURGISTS**



**SEPTEMBER 5**

8:30 a.m. — Joseph Brown  
10:30 a.m. — Judy Leonard

**SEPTEMBER 12**

8:30 a.m. — Elwood Hyden  
10:30 a.m. — David Beaman

**SEPTEMBER 19**

8:30 a.m. — David Beard  
10:30 a.m. — Judy Atwood

**SEPTEMBER 26**

8:30 a.m. — Ian Beard  
10:30 a.m. — Cristy Van Hook

**SEEKING USHERS**

We are in need of additional ushers for both first and second services. This is an important part of our weekly worship service. It is a great way to say “hello” to fellow church members and welcome visitors to our congregation. The schedule can be flexible or routine, based on your availability. Please contact Kerren Brown (info in church directory).

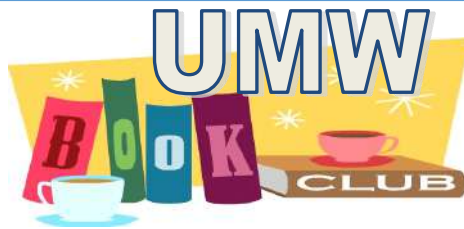


**North District Weekly Covenant Prayer List August 1—August 29, 2021**

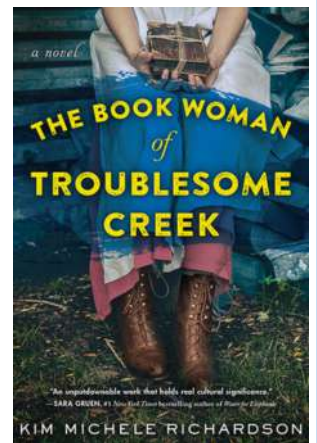
*“Pray for the continued mission of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:  
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”*



Prayer Date	Church/Ministry	Pastor
September 5	Pasadena: Holliston UMC	Pastor Young Chung
September 5	Moorpark UMC	Pastor Kathleen Puntar
September 12	North Hills Hispanic Mission	Lay Pastor Ervin Aguilon
September 12	Northridge UMC	Pastor Joseph Choi
September 19	Pasadena: Scott UMC	Pastor Cavalain Hawkins & Pastor Alma Johnson-Hawkins
September 19	Pearblossom: Community UMC	Pastor Glenn Hoskins
September 26	Santa Maria: Saint Andrew UMC	Pastor Nicole Reilley & Pastor Michelle Andrews
September 26	Extension Ministries	All Clergy appointed beyond the local church



## The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: September UMW Book Selection



On Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> the UMW Book Club will meet in the church library at 10:30 AM to discuss an intriguing historical fiction account of the Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project (1935-43). In The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson, Cussy Mary Carter rides her horse into the hill country to deliver books to poor people. Despite her best efforts, many of the people suspect her motivation and presence; Cussy's blue-tinged skin doesn't help them to readily accept her. Still she shows courage and determination in providing books to people isolated from the rest of the world.

You are welcome to join the book discussion on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Patti Melsheimer has checked out some copies of the book from our library system. Check with the church office to pick up one.

*submitted by Judy Leonard*

## The Morning Exercise Group

Come **start** your day by energizing yourself and exercising for good health! We welcome anyone who wants to do low impact exercise one, two, or three times a week. On Tuesday and Thursday, the group starts at 8:30 with a 20-minute Leslie Sansone video. We break for 10 minutes of social time and after, join Richard Simmons's Silver Group for 45 minutes. That workout is broken into 3 segments. On Wednesday, we start at 8:30 with Leslie again but go for a 2-mile low impact walk. At 9:00 we do an Improve Your Balance video. It's slow and easy.

Our group consists of 8-10 people who come and go, sit or stand, add or subtract from the rotation. So get up and come to our happy group in Criswell Hall! Wear comfortable clothing and bring a bottle of water. The cost is only \$1 dollar! Can you believe that? Hope to see you there Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday – or all 3 days like me.

*article and photos courtesy of Mary Thronson*



## STATEMENT FROM THE FIVE CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOOD PANTRY

After 30 years at our current site, the Five Cities Christian Women Food Pantry has been asked to find a new location or risk closing. We need the community's help to find a suitable location in the Grover Beach/Oceano area so that we can continue to serve our neighbors in the 5 Cities area. We would require an indoor location, approximately 1000 square feet, that can house 10 large refrigerators/freezers as well as shelving. We would also need ample parking for our clients that pick up food in the afternoons, Mondays through Fridays.

The Five Cities Christian Women Food Pantry was created in 1973 by a group of community members from 15 different churches and service organizations in the area. In the last 48 years, we've gone from feeding seven families a week to providing free groceries for 600-800 families a month. During COVID, we successfully worked hard to continue providing food during a difficult year.



Our new landlord must be open to allowing us to provide food donated from all religions and groups. In addition, we will continue to welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and religions, without discrimination. Again, we hope to find a landlord who is amenable to both requirements.

If you have a location lead, please contact Marlene Jeung at [mjeung08@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjeung08@sbcglobal.net) or 1-559-280-1649.

I WAS HUNGRY AND  
YOU GAVE ME FOOD





### The United Methodist Men are headed on a field trip and you are invited!

There will be room for 14 of us as we head to the **Piedras Blancas Lighthouse** for a tour and then onto the Main Street Grill in Cambria for lunch.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October** in the Church parking lot for **8:15 a.m.** departure on a Ride-On van. **Cost will be \$10 for the tour ticket and lunch will be on you.** A signup sheet will be available in the Narthex the first Sunday in September.



Also coming in October your UMM will be putting on a Halloween pancake breakfast. It should be *ghoulishly* good.



*submitted by Paul Holden*



United  
Methodist  
Women

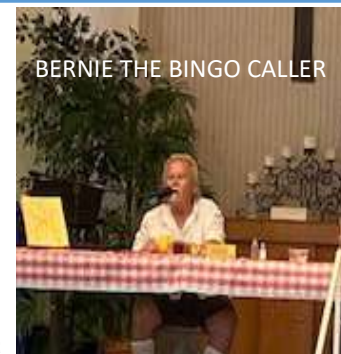
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

"The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."



## UMW SPAGHETTI AND BINGO

Didn't we have fun eating Spaghetti and playing Bingo together! It feels so good to get out and be sociable, and we raised almost \$500 for our philanthropic funds. We help many local groups in need in addition to sending a large sum to the District UMW to be distributed to help all over the world. Haiti is receiving our help in their current difficulties after the earthquake. It's hard to believe we could have so much fun and do so much good at the same time.



BERNIE THE BINGO CALLER

Our church is such a friendly and safe place to be. We work hard to keep our events and gatherings just right for you and your health.

Coming up ahead in September we've scheduled a **Women's Retreat on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 2 pm** at Patti Melsheimer's house. There will be study, food, yoga, crafting and fellowship with some great women. We will be studying The Parable of the Pumpkin. Please accept this invitation and join us. The cost is \$20. You can sign up at church on Sunday at the desk in the narthex, call the church office or call Gerry McGuire. We are looking forward to getting to know you.

With the **Holiday Boutique** coming up (November 4, 5, 6), we are crafting items to sell. We can use your help, so please join us at the craft workshops we are preparing for you to learn and help. You don't need to know how, let us teach you.



## Calendar of Thursday

### Craft Workshops:

- September 9— Knitting
- September 16— Embroidery and Cross stitch,
- September 23— Snowmen from Creamer Bottles,
- September 30— Felt Advent Calendars
- October 7— Handkerchief Angels
- October 14— Card Making and Village Houses
- October 21— Wooden Spool Ornaments,
- October 28— Tea Bag Wreath and other Wreaths.

**Workshops will be 9 am to 12 pm, McMillen Room.**

**Wear your masks! We will social distance.**

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together ...But encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

submitted by Gerry McGuire





## Happy September 2021!

This may not be exactly where we were hoping to be as far as our choir coming back is concerned, but we are making small strides towards that goal. We are blessed to have others coming forward to help with the music.

I give thanks and praise to God for Rosslyn Clauson who has blessed us with her cello playing over the past few months and will continue to do so a couple Sundays this September. Cristy Van Hook helped lead hymns one week.

B.G. Perriguet also blessed us with her voice, and we hope to get her back again soon. Carolyn and Dave Anderson did a lovely duet one Sunday. We will be thankful to have them any time they are back in the Central Coast. There's a women's quartet working on something for October and our wonderful bells are going to be joining us in worship with Leonard Lutz back on organ on that Sunday.

Of course, the ever-talented Dennis Eiler on piano and Brad Bettencourt on the organ continue to bring us, week after week, great music.

If you would like to start up a duet, trio or quartet, I would be so very happy to help you get it organized, choose music and practice with you.

Wow! Even if we can't yet sing in a group setting without masks, we are making a Joyful noise to the Lord.

Choir will start up as soon as we can safely do so. Please pray for our guidance in making that determination.

Until then..... KEEP SINGING!

*submitted by Julia Burns*



# News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

**MISSION TEAM: September 2021**  
**Judy Atwood**

## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

### GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

The world has been experiencing a variety of major disasters since I last wrote. I want to catch you up on what I have learned about the ministry we have been supporting on the island of La Gonave in Haiti.

By now I am sure you are aware of the earthquake which occurred. This along with the political unrest, gang violence, the pandemic and extreme poverty has left much fear among the people.

Pastor Enickson reports that everyone in the congregation is all right. People are very scared to stay inside because of the earthquake aftershocks, rain and winds. Some of the church families are facing issues like garden devastation and loss of animals as well as structural damage to their property.

When we discussed things about the church, you can see by the picture that a part of the church roof has been damaged. As a result, they have been meeting in the yard under a tree because of the aftershocks. They are waiting to see how the storms go before repairing the roof.



Even in the midst of the disaster the students are still excited about their sewing program. The kitchen program, as he calls it, is not going quite as well because of the need for a better stove which he says they can get for \$350.

Enickson, the pastor, is excited to be sharing this dream of helping the young people learn ways that they can support themselves as they move forward in life. Thanks for being a part of the solution so that their dreams of helping young church members can be realized

What they are doing is their way of doing what we have done through our congregation with our scholarship program for our youth as they have gone on to further their education. Pray with them for the success of these new programs.

### UMCOR MINISTRY

Special giving to UMCOR is the avenue within the UMC that provides assistance worldwide where disasters happen...fires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc. You can be a part of this ministry by making a gift marked UMCOR. 100% goes to disasters.

*So, my challenge to myself and others who wish to join me, continue to be who you are and be willing to take time to help make a change in the life of others.*





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p align="center"><b>Abbreviation Legend</b></p> <p>S—Sanctuary CH—Criswell Hall                      MMR—McMillen Room #113 K—Kitchen                      L—Library Room #123 HR—Handbell Room #115                      PS—Pastor's Study PL—Parking Lot</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—H</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Program Ministry Walk</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>AGUMCC Spirit Day</p> <p>3:30 PM AGUMCC closed</p> <p>4 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>15th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY!</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM UMW Steering Committee—L</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>16th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Book Club—L</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM Church Council—CH</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p> <p>AGUMCC Board Meeting—MMR                      1:00 PM—Open                      2:00 PM—Closed</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>UMW Retreat                      9 AM to 2 PM                      Home of Patti Melsheimer</p> <p>women's retreat</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>17th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>2 PM Family Game Time—CH</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM MME-Circle—MMR</p> <p>Welcome Autumn</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>18th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p>		

# Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

**Church Office:** (805) 481-2692  
**E-mail:** fumcag@sbcglobal.net  
**Find us on Facebook at:** United  
**Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**  
[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

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**E-mail:** mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

**Missionary (retired):** Judy Atwood

**Lay Leader:** Patti Melsheimer

**Office Administrator:**

Frances Robertson

**Website Manager:** Jamie Foster

**Choir Director:** Julie Burns

**Praise Team Director:** Mike Clark

**Choral Pianist:** Dennis Eiler

**Handbell Choir Dir.:** Leonard Lutz

**Bishop:** Grant J. Hagiya

**District Superintendent:**

Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon

**AG UM Children's Center**

**Director:** Madrigal Quaglino

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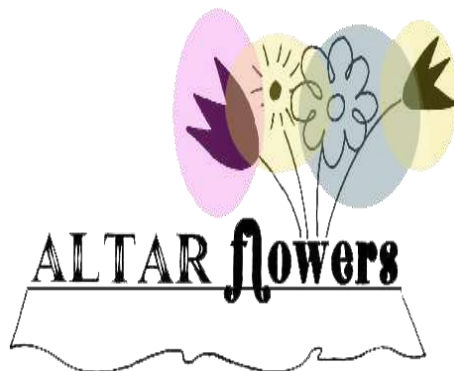
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 David Beaman, Judy Leonard,  
 Patti Melsheimer.

**Other contributors:**

Varied Teams / Committees

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*Layout Editor reserves the right to cut and edit articles to meet space limitations.*



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

You are invited to order flowers to honor or remember someone special.

Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for the worship services on Sunday and recorded for the video made for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get those beautiful flowers to you.

The cost remains at \$25 .

Orders can be made, as in the past, from the Grand Bouquet which we can do upon your request. Or orders can be placed with Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) who has created lovely arrangements with Trader Joe's flowers used in our worship services.

Please contact Frances in the Church Office, who is the liaison with the Worship Team, to make your plans.



Sally Weitkamp.....09/13

Alice Addison.....09/14

Bob Thronson.....09/16

Jan Treat.....09/18

Peg Gallop.....09/21

John Emery.....09/22

Glen Werling.....09/24

Judith Atwood.....09/26

Claire Jacob.....09/29



*Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will gladly add your birth date to our monthly birthday list!*

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**2021**

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Children's Center Chronicle

*Program Ministry*

Program Ministry is full steam ahead! In the Narthex we've got all scheduled events presented on our big screen, with sign up sheets at the program ministry station! We have a game day planned, and a quilt class workshop, plus more events.

Please stop by, share your suggestions, ask questions and sign up for events .

*submitted by Sandy Underwood*